

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10
SS-15 /082 W

-----108083 212048Z /41

R 211500Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 738
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR MAYNES FROM BAKER

PARIS FOR UNESCO

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, UN, FAO, AORG
SUBJECT: IO CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE: FODAG COMMENTS

REF: STATE 31311

1. TAKING AGENDA ISSUES IN REFTEL IN ORDER, U.S. DIPLOMACY NEEDS TO
KEEP IMPROVING ITS OUTREACH TO THE VERY DIVERGENT FORCES WITHIN G-77
AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR CHANCES OF ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES ON THE
BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SIDE ARE ALWAYS BETTER:

(A) WHEN WE GET CLEAR USG POSITIONS, PRIORITIES, AND OBJECTIVES
30 DAYS AHEAD OF THE MEETINGS, NOT FROM ARRIVING DELEGATION MEMBERS
WHO STITCHED A POSITION TOGETHER JUST BEFORE THE PLANE TOOK OFF;
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(B) WHEN WE CAN, WITH THESE IN HAND, GET A COMMON FRONT BY MAIN
CONTRIBUTORS;

(C) WHEN RESOURCES PROVIDED OUTSIDE THE SPECIALIZED AGENCY
BUDGET TO LDC'S ARE IN AN UP TREND;

(D) WHEN LDC'S ARE AWARE THAT MANNER IN WHICH THEY PURSUE OBJECTIVES IN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES CAN AFFECT ATTITUDES TOWARD THEIR BIDS FOR PROJECT RESOURCES (E.G. HOW THEY PLAY IT IN FAO COULD RELATE TO THE SUCCESS OF THEIR BIDS TO IFAD).

2. USDELS: THEIR FORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCED BY INTERAGENCY POLITICS BUT WITH IMPROVED COORDINATION IN WASHINGTON AND HERE, PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. STAFF HERE IS RIGHT SIZE AND GOOD QUALITY.

3. POLITICIZATION IS WANING A BIT AS ARAB ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PLO DECLINES AND THE AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE JUST ABOUT ALL THE ACCESS THEY NEED.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS ARE MOST RELEVANT FOR US HERE, BUT WE NEED TO MAKE OUR DIPLOMACY MORE CONSISTENT ON THE FORMER AND OUR IDEAS SIMPLER AND MORE FUNCTIONAL ON THE LATTER.

5. U.S. PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF WHAT WE ARE DOING HERE IN ROME IS LOW. THERE MAY BE A CASE FOR FOCUSING IT ON SEVERAL POSITIVE TRENDS; IMPROVED WFP COORDINATION OF SAHEL EMERGENCY; PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED AID/FAO COORDINATION AND COOPERATION STARTING IN SAHEL; WFC'S EMERGINE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED PLANNING BY FOOD DEFICIT COUNTRIES AS IT MOVES TO KEEP CGFPI FOOD PLAN EFFORT ALIVE; IFAD AS A VEHICLE AND MODEL FOR GETTING OPEC FUNDS INTO OPERATION MULTILATERALLY; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAO AS THE MAJOR MANAGER OF VOLUNTARILY FUNDED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S ON A LEVEL (DOLLARS 200 MILLION/YEAR) WHICH MAKES ITS OWN TCP PROGRAM LOOK MODEST; FAO'S GROWING ROLE THROUGH INVESTMENT CENTER IN DESIGNING AND PREPARING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR BANKS IN SECTOR INTO WHICH IFI'S NOW PUTTING OVER ONE-THIRD OF THEIR MONEY. PROBLEM IS THAT NONE OF THESE TRENDS HAS REALLY BROAD PR APPEAL EXCEPT PERHAPS FIRST.

6. CONGRESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE WOULD BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED PERCEPTION OF ABOVE TRENDS BUT WE STILL NEED FACE THE POOR IMAGE OF INTERNATIONAL BUREAUCRACY IN AREAS OF REGULAR BUDGET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUDGETTING, PAY SCALE, EVALUATION, PERSONNEL SELECTION, AND U.S. PERSONNEL. WITH REGARD TO LATTER, WE WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT DEVOTING AS MANY MANHOURS TO IMPROVING OUR RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT OF U.S. TECHNICIANS IN FAO FIELD PROJECTS AND TO DEVISING A U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAO ASSOCIATE EXPERTS PROGRAM AS WE HAVE TO OTHER EXERCISES INVOLVING GETTING AMERICANS INTO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS WORK IN FIELD.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS MEANS TO THE ROME AGENCIES THE RIGHT TO FOOD

(WHICH IS CERTAINLY A VERY FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT). QUESTION WE NEED TO ADDRESS IS WHETHER, LIKE OTHER RIGHTS, IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY OBLIGATIONS; NOT ONLY THE MORAL OBLIGATION OF THE AFFLUENT TO HELP THE HUNGRY, BUT ALSO THE OBLIGATION OF THE FAMILY, THE COMMUNITY AND THE STATE IN AREAS OF CHRONIC DEFICIT AND MALNUTRITION TO PRACTICE AND TEACH FAMILY PLANNING. WITHOUT THIS, MASSIVE INPUTS WILL ONLY SUFFICE TO KEEP US FROM LOSING GROUND IN STRUGGLE AGAINST HUNGER AT A LEVEL OF EFFORT IN WHICH RESOURCES OF SOIL, WATER, PHOSPHATE, ETC, WILL BEGIN TO APPROACH FINITE LIMITS. FACED WITH THIS GRIM PROSPECT, OUR CURRENT TENDENCY TO RELATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED SO THAT IN TURNING THE TOP OFF AND ON WE AFFECT OUR MILITARY, CULTURAL, OR OTHER PROGRAMS BUT NOT BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAMS. IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE LATTER ARE TO BE LINKED, FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS OF RECIPIENT NATINS WOULD BE PERHAPS MORE RELEVANT LINK IF ISSUE WERE NOT SO DELICATE.

8. U.S. DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE, AS PERCEIVED FROM HERE, NEEDS NOT ONLY TO HAVE LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES T GO IN NEW DIRECTIONS INDICATED BY CONGRESS, BUT MUST BE PART OF BROADER STRATEGY INCLUDING IFI'S, UTILIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, BETTER LDC PLANNING AND PRICE POLICIES, MORE FREQUENT CONSORTIA APPROACHES, IN MSA COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, IMPROVEMENT OF NCOME-EARNING POSSIBILITIES OF MSA GOVERNMENTS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND OF MSA POPULATIONS THROUGH IMPROVED GUIDELINES FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT. BRIEFING ON DIRECTION AND PROSPECTS OF NEW DRAFT AID LEGISLATION WOULD BE TIMELY IN THIS CONTEXT.

9. FOREGOING ARE RATHER ROME-ORIENTED COMMENTS BUT UN AGENCIES HERE DO SEEM TO HAVE A TASK AND STYLE WHICH DIFFERENTIATE THEM SUBSTANTIALLY FROM REST OF SYSTEM WHILE AT SAME TIME THEY RELATE INCREASINGLY TO TYPES OF DECISIONS WE MAKE IN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. ONE ISSUE THAT INVOLVES A NUMBER OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ON WHICH VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT, USUN, GENEVA, USAID AND OTHERS WILL BE USEFUL TO SHARE UNDER "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" IS RECENT JIU REPORT ON UN SYSTEM'S USE OF EXPERTS, A DOCUMENT THAT IS CAUSING SOME FLUTTERING OF WINGS AROUND HERE. ANOTHER ISSUE WITH SOME GENERAL AUDIENCE IS HOW WE SEE IMPACT OF RECENT RESTRUCTURING STEPS AND ROLE OF OVERVIEW MECHANISM WITH RESPECT TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND ISSUES THEY HANDLE. A THIRD ISSUE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US, BUT ALSO TO OTHER MISSIONS, IS WHAT WILL BE THE OUTCOME IN TERMS OF POLICY AND PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS OF THE BOURNE HUNGER STUDY. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME03196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780078-0770
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780232/aaaabbba.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4d4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 31311
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3535034
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IO CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE: FODAG COMMENTS
TAGS: OCON, AORG, UN, FAO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4d4b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014